

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 SAB-01

DRC-01 /136 W

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R 172154Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4234

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 5491

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: VE ELAB

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FORMATION OF A LATIN AMERICAN PORT WORKERS
CONFEDERATION TO COUNTER SOCIAL CHRISTIAN GAINS

1. THE SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE VENEZUELAN PORT WORKERS
FEDERATION WAS HELD JUNE 11-15. EIGHTY-FOUR DELEGATES WERE PRESENT
FROM EIGHT AFFILIATED UNIONS. MEETINGS WERE BUSINESSLIKE AND
REAFFIRMED THE COMPLETE ACCION DEMOCRATICA DOMINANCE OF THE
FEDERATION AS WELL AS THE STRONG SUPPORT OF ORGANIZED LABOR FOR THE
PRO-LABOR MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT CARLOS
ANDRES PEREZ.

2. OF SPECIAL INTEREST WAS THE PRESENCE OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM
EACH OF THE PORT WORKERS FEDERATIONS IN BRAZIL, PERU AND ECUADOR,
PLUS TWO ANTI-CASTRO CUBANS FROM THE CTC-IN-EXILE. MARTIN CORREA,
WHO WAS RE-ELECTED UNOPPOSED AS PRESIDENT OF THE VENEZUELAN PORT
WORKERS FEDERATION, TOLD EMBASSY'S LABOR ATTACHE THAT HE IS
CONTINUING HIS LONG-STANDING EFFORTS TO FORM A SEPARATE LATIN

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AMERICAN PORT WORKERS CONFEDERATION. CORREA STATED TO LABATT THAT

THIS ORGANIZATION, WHEN FORMED, WOULD AFFILIATE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL

TRANSPORT FEDERATION (ITF). HOWEVER, ONE OF THE ECUADOREAN LEADERS
PRESENT, (FNU) ANAYA FROM GUAYAQUIL, WHO ALSO SUPPORTS THE FORMATION
OF A LATIN PORT WORKERS CONFEDERATION, STATES THAT THE ITF IS
PRESENTLY USELESS AND THE NEW GROUP WOULD INSTEAD AFFILIATE EXCLUSIVELY

WITH ORIT. BOTH AGREED THAT THE ITF IS BADLY UNDERMANNED AND IS NOT
DOING A SATISFACTORY JOB IN REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF PORT WORKERS

IN LATIN AMERICA. ANAYA CLAIMED THE ITF REGIONAL SECRETARY, MEDARDO
GOMERO, WAS SLOW IN RESPONDING TO THE BANANA DISPUTE IN CENTRAL
AMERICA AND CONSEQUENTLY THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONS ARE TAKING
AN INITIATIVE WHICH THE ITF SHOULD HAVE TAKEN. ANAYA STATED THAT A
MEETING WILL BE HELD IN HONDURAS DURING AUGUST BRINGING TOGETHER
SITRATERCO OF HONDURAS, THE UNIONS OF PUERTO LIMON AND GOLFITA IN
COSTA RICA, SETUFCO OF GUATEMALA, CHIRIQUILAND OF PANAMA, AND THE
SINDICATO LIBRE OF THE STANDARD COMPANY (SUTEF) IN THE PROVINCIA DE
ORO, ECUADOR. THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN LATIN AMERICAN WORKERS CENTRAL (CLAT).

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE PRESENCE OF THE FOREIGN DELEGATIONS AT
THE VENEZUELAN PORT WORKERS CONVENTION COULD BE INTERPRETED AS
EVIDENCE OF INTEREST ON THEIR PART IN THE FORMATION OF A LATIN
AMERICAN PORT WORKERS CONFEDERATION, IT IS NOT BELIEVED THAT SERIOUS
STEPS WERE INDEED TAKEN TO ESTABLISH SUCH AN ORGANIZATION.
SPECIFICALLY, THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE IDEA, MARTIN CORREA,
LACKS THE NECESSARY ORGANIZING AND ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITIES.
MCCLINTOCK

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